Registered on OTC

2590. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Over the Counter Exchanges of India (OTC) has requested the Security and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to exempt the companies registered with it from the conditions of three years profit before sale through OTC; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has received such a request from the Over the Counter Exchange of India. SEBI would take a decision in the matter after taking into account all relevant factors.

Tax Evasion by Private/Public Sector companies

2591. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Directorate of Revenue has conducted any internal survey to find out tax evasion by big Private and Public Sector Companies by various accounting methods;

(b) if so, the details of the finding; and

(c) the action, if any, being taken to plug the loopholes in the Income Tax Act, 1961 so that these companies are also brought into the Tax Net?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

New Coal Mines

2592. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the names of new coal mines where the Central Coalfields Limited proposes mining at Balumath under Palamau district of Bihar;

(b) the quantum of coal reserve likely to be found in each of these mines; and

(c) the schemes formulated by the Government for preventing illegal mining of coal in the Balumath area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b). Presently, one mine i.e. Titariakhar OC is being worked near Balumath. Geological Reserve of Titariakhar mine is 40 million tonnes.

(c) Central Coalfields Ltd. have initiated the following steps for checking/preventing illegal mining :-

(i) Continuous plugging of rat holes in abandoned mines;

(ii) Dozing off the approach areas of such rat holes;

(iii) Carrying out surprise checks in the abandoned areas and also in illegal depots with the help of local police;

(iv) Apprehending people carrying coal from such depots;

(v) Maintaining constant liaison with District Authorities.

CCL has also constituted a Task force to suggest way and means to thwart attempts of illegal mining in CCL's leasehold area.

Coal Mines Depository

2893. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether coal mines depository was explored in Bagrakota areas of West Bengal many years back;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken steps to utilise this depository; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (d). As per information furnished by Geological Survey of India (GSI), the deposit of coal in Bagrakot area, Darjeeling District of West Bengal was surveyed by them through surface geological mapping in 1964-66 and 1976-78. The deposit is apparently of uneconomical nature as the seams are impersistent and the area is highly disturbed geologically. As such, no exploratory drilling was carried out and no attempt was made in estimating the resource potentiality.

Foreign Aid for Development Project of A.P.

2594. SHRI B. DHARMA BIKSHAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total foreign assistance provided by the Union Government for the development of different projects in Andhra Pradesh during the last two years; and

(b) the present status of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Foreign assistance received by Government of India is passed on the the States in the form of Additional Central